

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 67, line 15 as follows:

--As an amino acid used in the present invention, a C₂-C₂₀ amino acid is preferred. Specific examples of such amino acids include glycine, (+)-alanine, β-alanine, (-)-asparagine, (+)-aspartic acid, (-)-cysteine, (+)-glutamic acid, (+)-glutamine, (-)-hydroxylysine, (-)-leucine, (+)-isoleucine, (+)-lysine, (-)-methionine, (-)-serine, (-)-threonine, (+)-valine, aminolactic aminobutyric acid, azaserine, arginine and methionine.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 7 as follows:

--As a lactam used in the present invention, a C₂-C₂₀ lactam is preferred. Specific examples of such lactams include glycine anhydride, β-propiolactam, α-pyrrolidone, α-piperidone, ε-caprolactam, α-methyl-caprolactam, ~~α-methyl-caprolactam~~ β-methyl-caprolactam, γ-methyl-caprolactam, δ-methyl-caprolactam, ε-methyl-caprolactam, N-methyl-caprolactam, β,γ-dimethyl-caprolactam, γ-ethyl-caprolactam, γ-isopropyl-caprolactam, ε-isopropyl-caprolactam, γ-butyl-caprolactam, γ-hexacyclobenzyl-caprolactam, ω-enantholactam, ω-capryllactam, caprylolactam, lauro lactam and a dimer of caprolactone.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 123, line 3 as follows:

--20 mg of a glycolic acid copolymer which has been dried at 80 °C under a pressure of 1×10^2 Pa for 6 hours is weighed and, then, dissolved in 3 g of the above-mentioned eluent, followed by filtration using a filter having a mesh size of $\pm 0.2 \mu\text{m}$, thereby obtaining a sample solution.--

Please amend Table 1 at page 258 as follows:

				Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)			123,000	186,000	182,000	167,000	179,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)			83.97	88.97	93.97	88.97	88.97
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type		Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	6-hydroxyhexanoic acid	3-hydroxybutyric acid
		Content (% by mole)		16.00	11.00	6.00	11.00	11.00
		Average chain length		1.08	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.02
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer units (% by weight mole)			0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Polyol monomer units	Type		-	-	-	-	-
		Content (% by mole)		-	-	-	-	-
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type		-	-	-	-	-
		Content (% by mole)		-	-	-	-	-
Results of evaluation	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)			0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer			28	29	29	29	28
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test			36	38	43	38	39
	Oxygen gas permeability of the melt-shaped sheet (cc/m ² ·day·atm)			9.1	8.0	7.2	8.1	8.0
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet			4	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil			Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 2 at page 259 as follows:

	Comparative				Comparative Example 4
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	
Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	109,000	164,000	122,000	187,000	
Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by weight mole)	88.86	96.97	72.96	88.97	
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
		11.01	3.00	27.01	11.00
		1.02	1.01	1.14	1.62
		0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
Results of evaluation	Polyol monomer units	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Results of evaluation	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
		34	33	33	29
		175	115	39	105
		8.2	7.0	35.0	8.4
Results of evaluation	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	4	5 or more	4	5 or more
		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable
		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable
		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 3 at page 260 as follows:

		Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	187,000	187,000	325,000	330,000	163,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	88.94	88.94	88.98	88.94	88.97
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	Type					
	Content (% by mole)	10.99	10.99	10.98	10.98	10.94
	Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04
	Polyol monomer units	Neopentyl glycol	1,6-hexanediol	Trimethylolpropane	Neopentyl glycol	Trimethylolpropane
	Type					
	Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01
Results of evaluation	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	-	-	-	-	-
	Type					
	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.07	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.09
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	29	33	34	33	39
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	39	43	44	44	48
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m ² ·day·atm)	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
Results of evaluation	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 4 at page 261 as follows:

		Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14		Example 15	Comparative Example 5	
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)		186,000	185,000	189,000	280,000		189,000	165,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		88.96	88.96	88.63	88.62		88.25	93.95
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid		Lactic acid	Lactic acid
		Content (% by mole)	10.96	10.96	9.57	9.56		7.93	4.21
		Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.01		1.05	1.02
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03		0.03	0.03
	Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Trimethylolpropane	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol
		Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.90	0.90	0.01	1.91	0.92
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-	Oxalic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid		Adipic acid	Adipic acid
		Content (% by mole)	-	0.01	0.87	0.88		1.88	0.89
Results of evaluation	Total content of Polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)		0.08	0.08	1.80	1.82		3.82	1.84
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer		29	28	30	33		30	34
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test		40	39	39	42		38	110
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m ² ·day·atm)		8.5	8.5	8.8	9.2		12.0	8.3
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet		5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more		5 or more	5 or more
Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 5 at page 262 as follows:

		Example 16	Example 17	Example 18	Example 19	Example 20
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	178,000	148,000	132,000	152,000	93,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	88.98	88.93	88.91	88.92	88.98
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	Type	11.00	11.01	11.01	11.01	11.00
	Content (% by mole)	1.02	1.05	1.02	1.02	1.02
	Average chain length					
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02
	Polyol monomer units	-	-	-	-	-
	Type	-	-	-	-	-
	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-
Results of evaluation	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	-	-	-	-	-
	Type	-	-	-	-	-
	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	28	28	28	28	27
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	39	44	48	46	38
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m ² ·day·atm)	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.1
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 6 at page 263 as follows:

			Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7	Comparative Example 8	Comparative Example 9	Comparative Example 10	Comparative Example 11
			186,000	179,000	184,000	109,000	175,000	183,000
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)		88.59	88.58	88.62	88.84	94.00	83.00
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
		Content (% by mole)	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.02	6.00	17.00
		Average chain length	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2.08	2.36
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		0.20	0.21	0.18	0.14	-	-
	Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	-	-	-
		Content (% by mole)	0.21	0.21	0.20	-	-	-
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)		0.41	0.42	0.38	0.14	-	-
Results of evaluation	Degree of discoloration of copolymer		40	39	37	38	30	29
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test		224	242	196	158	92	58
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m ² ·day·atm)		8.7	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.8	28.0
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet		5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".